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**THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES
of
THE COLVILLE RESERVATION**

POST OFFICE BOX 150-NESPELEM WASHINGTON 99155

PHONE (509) 634-4711

February 29, 2000

Richard Robinson
Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1930
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Lake Roosevelt

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for taking the time and traveling the great distance to Kettle Falls to meet with us concerning Lake Roosevelt.

As we discussed, contaminated sediments in the bed of Lake Roosevelt become exposed during reservoir drawdown events. The Colville Confederated Tribes are concerned about the exposure pathways and amount of heavy metals that may be available to humans and the environment during these reservoir drawdowns and the frequent dust storms that occur up and down the reservoir.

Past studies indicate that historical industrial discharges including mining in the US and Canada dumped millions of tons of contaminants into the Columbia River and its tributaries and have left slag and effluent containing such constituents as arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, zinc, dioxins, furans and PCBs (USGS, 1994). Recent fish tissue studies in 1998 indicate that dioxin, furans, PCBs and mercury are persistent in Lake Roosevelt fish.

In September 1999 the Colville Tribes petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of potential pollution sites on Lake Roosevelt. EPA is currently conducting the PA, but will not address the dust storm events and the possible exposure pathways of potentially contaminated dust and its effects. The Lake Roosevelt Water Quality Council (LRWQC) has also indicated the need to study this issue, but lacks the expertise to adequately design and study the dust problem due to the large geographic area and complexity of this type of study. The LRWQC has some funding which can be used to partially fund this effort.

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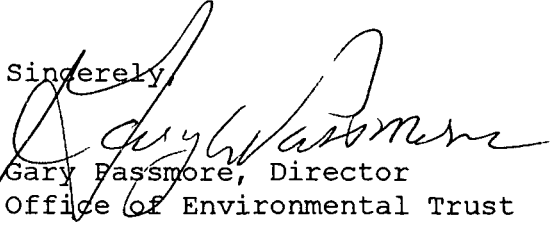
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We therefore request your agency to assist the Colville Tribes in the development of a study plan and any monitoring assistance that may be available for this project.

Please contact Patti Stone or Gary Passmore at the Office of Environmental Trust with any questions at 509-634-2415.

Thank you again for your consideration and we look forward to working with your agency.

Sincerely,



Gary Passmore, Director
Office of Environmental Trust

Cc: CBC
Gene Nicholson
Richard DuBey, SCB
Frank Osslander, LRWQC
Monica Tonel, EPA